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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 19, 1972

Dear Friend:

One of the most difficult problems facing a United States Senator is the early anticipation of complicated and vital issues - and focusing the attention of others on those issues so that a rational approach to the issue can be fashioned.

I believe that one area which urgently requires understanding, but which has been all but ignored by the American public, is the general area of genetic engineering. A wide range of questions - technical and scientific, legal and ethical - are raised by the dramatic new technologies which have been developed by the biomedical scientists. I am particularly interested in the social, legal, legislative, and ethical questions raised by the new developments in this field.

Accordingly, I participated recently in a symposium on the subject at the California Institute of Technology. My speech was reprinted in the Congressional Record and was then developed by my legislative assistant, Mel Levine, and myself into an article in the Saturday Review of Science.

Because of the importance of this subject and the need that increased attention be directed to it, I am taking the liberty of forwarding the article to you. I hope that you will find it provocative and that it will help to stimulate increased thought in this general area.

Very truly yours,



JOHN V. TUNNEY
United States Senator

JVT/mht